State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CITY OF HUNTINGTON
SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT
SRF PROJECT WW 08 06 35 02

DATE: September 4, 2008

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS: October 6, 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for a loan to finance all or part of the wastewater project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The SRF Clean Water Program has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 4-4-11, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FNSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the deadline date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FNSI; if appropriate, a new FNSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be effected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

Max Henschen
Senior Environmental Manager
State Revolving Fund -- IGCN 1275
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-8623

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:	City of Huntington 300 Cherry Street Huntington, IN 46750
SRF Project Number:	WW08 06 35 02
Authorized Representative:	The Honorable Steve Updike, Mayor

II. PROJECT LOCATION

Huntington is located in northeast Indiana approximately 90 miles northeast of Indianapolis and 25 miles southwest of Fort Wayne in Huntington County. The city is proposing the separation of sewers in three different project areas; these areas, as well as the current and future service areas, are shown in Figure 1. Project Area 1 is located in both the Huntington and Bippus USGS topographic quadrangles, T28N, R9E, section 15. Project Area 2 is located in the Huntington USGS topographic quadrangle, T28N, R9E, section 15. Project Area 3 is located in both the Huntington and Bippus USGS topographic quadrangles, T28N, R9E, section 10. The parts of project areas 1 and 3 in the Bippus quadrangle are in the "Ten Sections at Forks of the Wabash River" Reservation and do not have section, range or township designations. The work will occur in Huntington civil Township.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Huntington's collection system consists of 65 miles of sewers with approximately 80 percent combined sewers and 20 percent sanitary sewers. The collection system also includes 13 lift stations. The city's combined sewer system includes fifteen permitted combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls. Eight of the CSOs discharge to Flint Creek; Flint Creek flows underneath the city through a large diameter tunnel; the remaining seven CSOs discharge to Little River, a tributary of the Wabash River. The current service area is approximately 4,500 acres; combined sewers serve approximately 1,900 acres. The combined sewer system ranges in size from 8-inch vitreous clay pipe (VCP) to a 60- by 38-inch elliptical reinforced concrete pipe.

Huntington's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requires both the preparation of a CSO Operational Plan (CSOOP) and the development of a CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The city's CSOOP was completed and approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) on May 14, 1998. The CSOOP addressed the nine minimum controls; these are measures which that can reduce CSOs without requiring significant engineering studies or construction and which can be implemented in a short period of time. The CSO LTCP is a comprehensive long-term control plan that recognizes the site specific nature of the CSOs and their impacts on the receiving streams. The city must submit an approvable plan by September, 2009. When

finalized, the plan should include water quality-based control measures that are technically feasible, affordable, and consistent with the EPA's CSO Control Policy.

The city submitted a CSO LTCP to the IDEM in 2003, which included 2001 flow monitoring data. These data were used in determining the average annual CSO volumes for each CSO overflow. Based upon the model generated from the 2001 monitoring data, the annual average CSO volume for all outfalls was 105 million gallons (MG). Huntington is currently installing flow meters that will automatically record the information at each of the CSO outfalls.

In a letter to the IDEM dated May 1, 2006, the city requested that five sewer separation projects identified in their LTCP be considered as Early Action Projects (EAPs). These projects would eliminate five CSO outfalls (#s 009, 012, 013, 015, and 016) and all except CSO 015 would be addressed in the city's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) submitted to the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF). However, CSO 015 was dropped as an EAP during preliminary design due to the high cost of separating a large portion of a combined sewer system upstream of this CSO.

The IDEM encourages communities to implement projects such as these prior to its approval of an LTCP and therefore had no objections to Huntington implementing the sewer separation projects as EAPs. The city entered into a State Judicial Agreement with the IDEM on February 22, 2008, which called for the city to revise its LTCP to "provide for the construction and implementation of all facility and sewer system improvements and other measures necessary so that CSO discharges...comply with the technology-based and water quality-based requirements of the Clean Water Act, state law and regulation, and the city's NPDES permit."

The proposed EAPs will reduce the frequency and volume of CSOs at CSO 009, 012, 013, and 016. It is estimated that these three project areas will reduce the annual CSO volume by two million gallons and eliminate the ten CSO events that occur at CSOs 009, 012, and 016 on an annual basis. In addition, it may be possible to completely eliminate CSOs 009, 012, and 016 in the future, if no events are observed. However, the city does not anticipate that CSO 013 will be eliminated at this time, due to a conflict between the model predicting CSO 013 annual discharge volumes and the actual discharge monitoring reports. Until more monitoring and modeling has been completed to verify which of these volumes is more accurate, the fate of CSO 013 cannot be determined. Although CSO 013 may not be eliminated, the total overflow volume from this outfall will be reduced as a result of at least some sanitary flows being removed from the combined sewer; if all sanitary flows can be removed, that combined sewer would be converted to a storm sewer.

The city will install hydrodynamic separators (HDS) to treat the stormwater prior to discharge to receiving waters from the newly-separated storm sewers. The HDS units will be installed at the end of the stormwater pipe immediately upstream of the existing outfall structure. The HDS units are designed to slow the stormwater flow and create a non-turbulent flow to allow sediment and its attached pollutants to settle out. These units will store sediment, oil and debris until the city's vacuum trucks collect it for disposal at the wastewater treatment plant.

The proposed sewer separation projects will improve the water quality of Flint Creek, the Little River and the Wabash River.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In Project Area 1, the city proposes (see Figure 2):

A. Installing approximately 1,160 feet of 12-inch high density polyethylene (HDPE) storm sewer;
B. Installing approximately 881 feet of 15-inch HDPE storm sewer;
C. Installing approximately 823 feet of 18-inch HDPE storm sewer;
D. Installing approximately 562 feet of 24-inch HDPE storm sewer;
E. Installing approximately 23 feet of 30-inch HDPE storm sewer;
F. Installing approximately 33 plugs for sealing inflow sources connected to combined sewer (e.g., downspouts, yard drains, foundations drains, etc.);
G. Installing approximately 24 storm inlets;
H. Installing approximately twelve 48-inch diameter manholes;
I. Installing approximately six 60-inch manholes;
J. Installing approximately one HDS;
K. Installing approximately 4,610 cubic yards of special backfill; and
L. Milling and resurfacing approximately 10,930 square yards of road pavement.

In Project Area 2, the city proposes (see Figure 3):

A. Installing approximately 1,335 feet of 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sanitary sewer;
B. Installing approximately eight plugs;
C. Installing approximately ten 48-inch diameter manholes;
D. Installing approximately two HDS units;
E. Installing approximately 2,320 cubic yards of special backfill;
F. Excavating approximately 800 cubic yards of rock;
G. Milling and resurfacing approximately 5,789 square yards of road pavement; and
H. Connecting approximately 18 service laterals.

In Project Area 3, the city proposes (see figures 4 and 5):

A. Installing approximately 6,752 feet of 8-inch PVC sanitary sewers;
B. Installing approximately 641 feet of 18-inch sanitary sewer;
C. Installing approximately thirty-four 48-inch manholes;
D. Installing approximately five 60-inch manholes;
E. Installing approximately one HDS;
F. Installing approximately 13,204 cubic yards of special backfill;
G. Excavating approximately 4,553 cubic yards of rock;
H. Milling and resurfacing approximately 20,137 square yards of road pavement; and
I. Connecting approximately 160 service laterals.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

Construction and Equipment Costs	
Project Area 1	$ 588,221
Project Area 2	373,146
Project Area 3	1,722,698
Construction and Equipment Subtotal	**$2,684,065**
Contingencies	269,112
Total Estimated Construction Cost	**$2,953,177**
* Non-Construction Costs	$ 738,823
Total Estimated Project Cost	**$ 3,692,000**

*Includes bonding, legal, engineering and inspection costs

B. The city will borrow approximately $3,692,000 through a 20-year State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) loan at an interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

Several CSO control alternatives were evaluated for each of the three project areas. These included: earthen basin storage, above-ground tank storage and underground tank storage. These alternatives were dismissed due to lack of available land, so only two alternatives were evaluated.

A. "No-Action"

This alternative was not considered, since the city would continue to violate its NPDES permit, which requires the development of a CSO LTCP that must address reduction and potential elimination of CSOs.

B. Sewer Separation

This alternative involves installing new sanitary and/or storm sewers in areas currently served by combined sewers. This can also be accomplished by converting the combined sewer to a storm sewer and installing new sanitary sewers or vise versa.

The following is a brief description of the sewer separation alternative for each project area:

1. Project Area No. 1: install a new storm sewer as shown in Figure 2, and convert the existing combined sewer, which ranges in size from 12-inch VCP to 21-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP), to a sanitary sewer. Therefore, the current CSO 009 could potentially become a stormwater outfall, provided the desired results are observed during the post-construction monitoring period. An HDS unit will be installed at the end of the stormwater pipe immediately upstream of the existing outfall.

2. Project Area No. 2: install a sanitary sewer as shown on Figure 3 and convert the 15-inch VCP combined sewer under Warren Street and the 12-inch VCP combined sewer under Guilford Street to storm sewers. Therefore, the current CSO 012 and 013 outfall structures could potentially become storm water outfalls, provided the desired results are observed during the post-construction monitoring period. An HDS unit will be installed at the end of the stormwater pipe immediately upstream of each of the existing outfall structures which will become storm sewer outfalls.

3. Project Area No. 3: install sanitary sewers as shown in figures 4 and 5 and convert the existing combined sewer, which ranges in size from 8-inch VCP to a 36-inch by 48-inch brick sewer, to a storm sewer. Therefore, CSO 016 could potentially become a stormwater outfall provided the desired results are observed during the post-construction monitoring period. An HDS unit will also be installed at the end of the stormwater pipe immediately upstream of the existing outfall structure which will become a storm sewer outfall.

VII. Environmental Impacts of the Feasible Alternatives

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed and Undisturbed Areas: The proposed projects will take place under existing roads or in areas adjacent to them which have been previously disturbed by construction activity.

Structural Resources (Figures 6, 7, & 8): Based on a review of the Huntington County Interim Report, resources on the IDNR Division of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service websites, there are seventeen Notable historic sites in project areas 2 and 3 that could potentially be affected by the proposed projects. However, two of these sites could not be located (139 and 141). The project will not affect historic sites or districts, other than the temporary effects associated with sewer installation. The SRF's finding pursuant to the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, is: "no historic properties affected."

Plants and Animals: The proposed projects will not impact state or federal-listed endangered species or their habitat. The project will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat.

Prime Farmland: The proposed projects will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

Wetlands: The projects will not affect wetlands.

100-Year Floodplain: The projects will not affect the 100-year floodplain.

Surface Waters: The proposed projects will not adversely affect waters of high quality listed in 327 IAC 2-1-2(3), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), or Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-(2).

Groundwater: Temporary dewatering may be required in some of the proposed project areas. The dewatering procedure will be done so that sediment will be removed prior to being discharged.

Air Quality: Dust and noise will be increased during construction of the proposed projects.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The proposed projects' construction and operation will neither create nor destroy open space and recreational opportunities.

The proposed projects will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The city's PER states: *The City of Huntington, through the authority of its Board of Public Works will ensure that future development, as well as future collection system or treatment works projects connecting to SRF-funded facilities will not adversely impact archaeological/historical/structural resources, wetlands, wooded areas or other sensitive environmental resources. The city will require new development and treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

This document serves as the first notice to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Environmental Unit, the IDNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In correspondence dated December 19, 2007, the Natural Resources Conservation Service stated: *The proposed project to install new sanitary and storm sewers in the City of Huntington, Huntington County, Indiana, as stated in your letter dated December 11, 2007, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

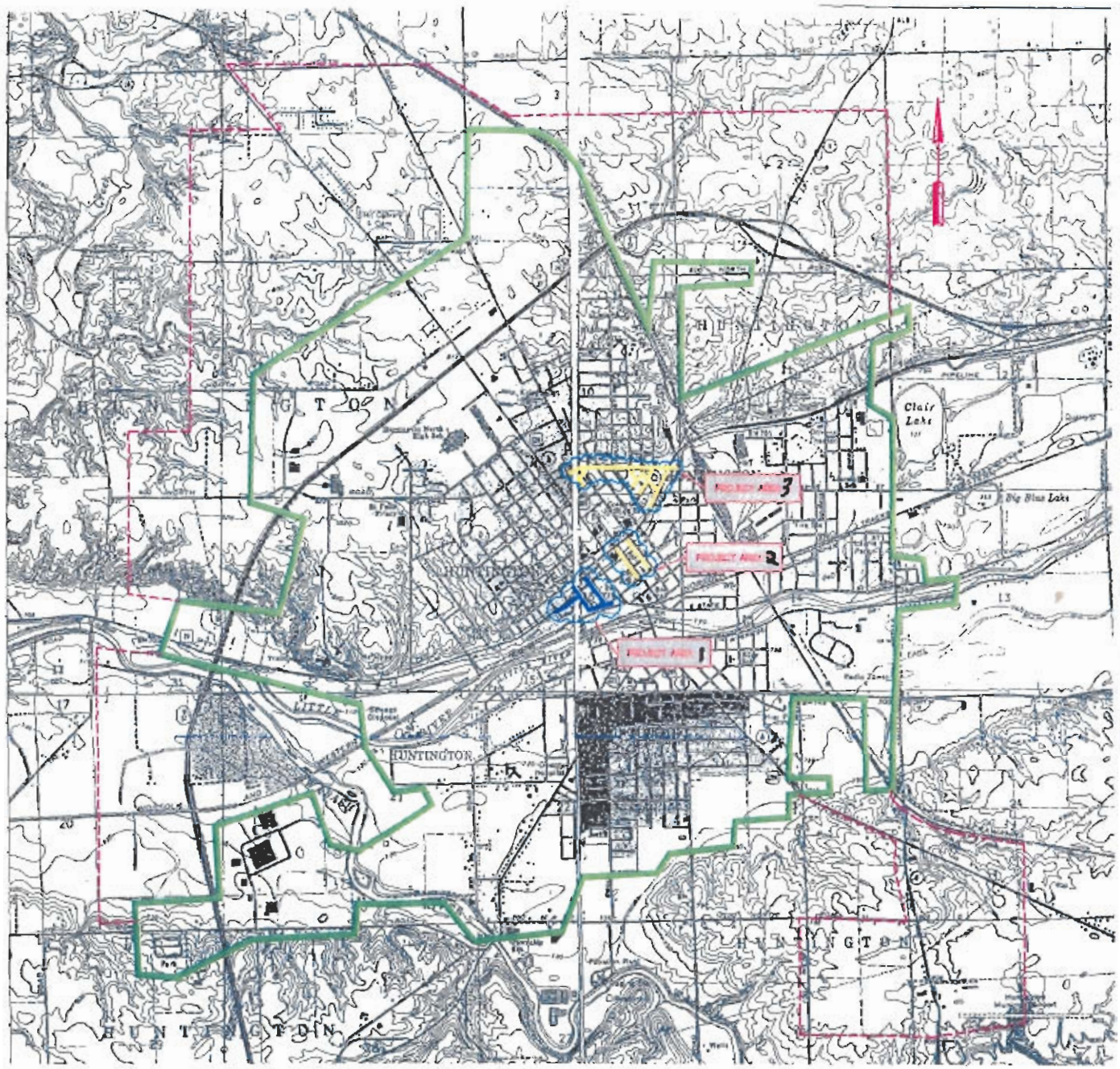
The city's PER lists the following mitigation measures:

A. The amount of noise cannot be decreased drastically, but construction can be limited to hours that will not disturb the nearby residents.

B. If dust becomes a nuisance to the residents, water should be applied to the ground to limit any air born dust, but water should not be applied in a great enough quantity to cause dirt to be carried off the site.

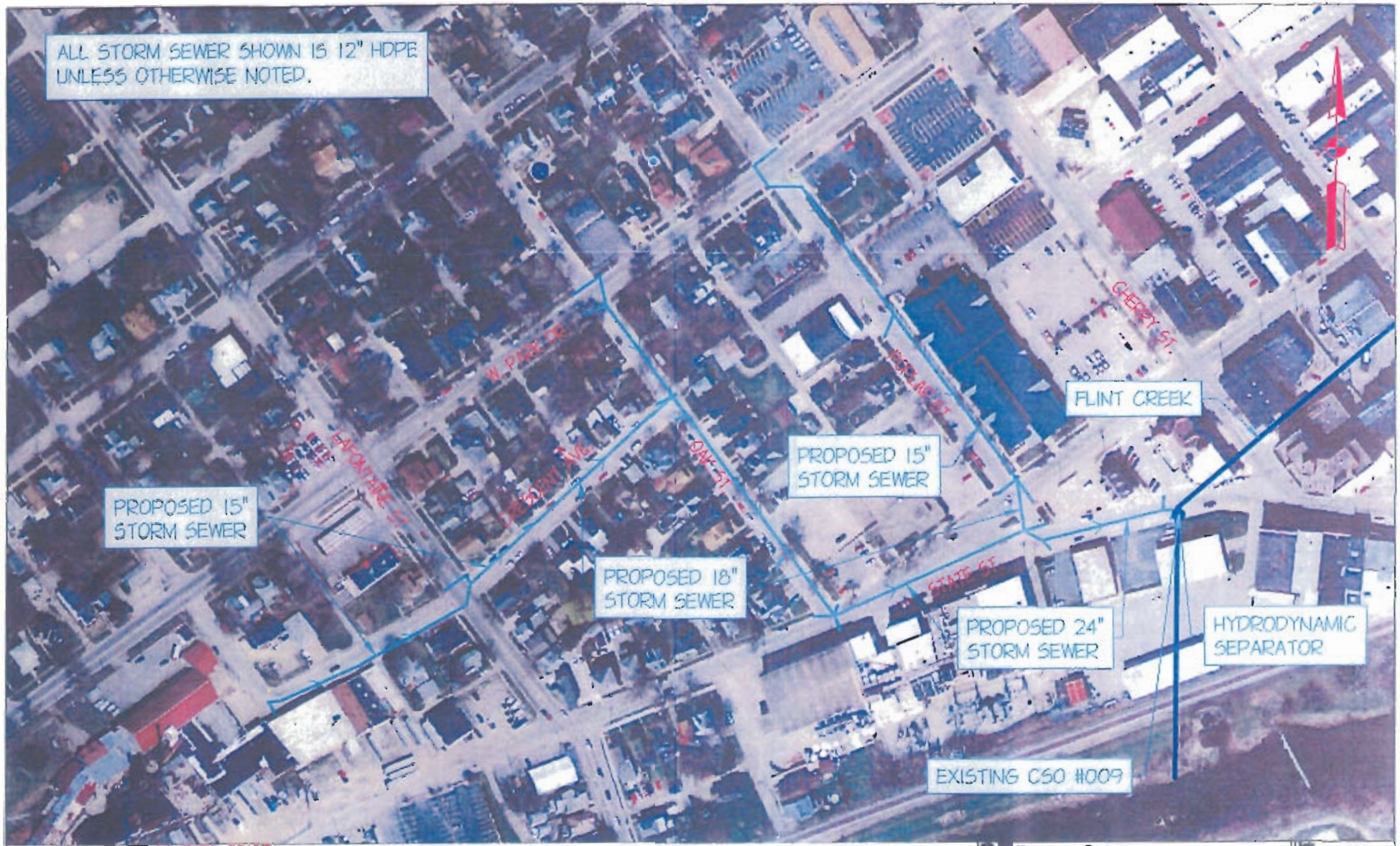
IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on March 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall. One member of the general public, the mayor and the city administrator raised questions and comments. The citizen raised questions regarding flooding and project delays in the St. Joe Street area. The mayor expressed concern about businesses, a post office and a public library in Project Area 1 that could be affected during construction; plans and specifications will be written to ensure that proper access will be maintained to these facilities during construction. The city administrator noted that the project could qualify for an SRF interest rate break, since it will reduce non-point source pollution.



Bonar Group Engineers Surveyors Planners		1" = 6,000'
Huntington, Indiana Sewer Separation Project	20 Year Study Area Revised 6/25/08	Project No. 10152

Figure 1



Bonar Group
Engineers Surveyors Planners

Huntington, Indiana
Sewer Separation Project

Project Area 1
Revised 6/25/08

1" = 150'

10152

Figure 2

Bonar Group
Engineers Surveyors Planners

Huntington, Indiana
Sewer Separation Project

Project Area 2
Revised 6/25/08

1" = 200'

10152

Figure 3

GRAPHIC SCALE

100 0 50 100 200 400

(IN FEET)

1 inch = 200 ft.

Bonar Group
Engineers Surveyors Planners

Huntington, Indiana
Sewer Separation Project

Project Area 3
Revised 6/25/08

1" = 200'

Project No. 10152

Figure 4

Bonar Group
Engineers Surveyors Planners

Huntington, Indiana
Sewer Separation Project

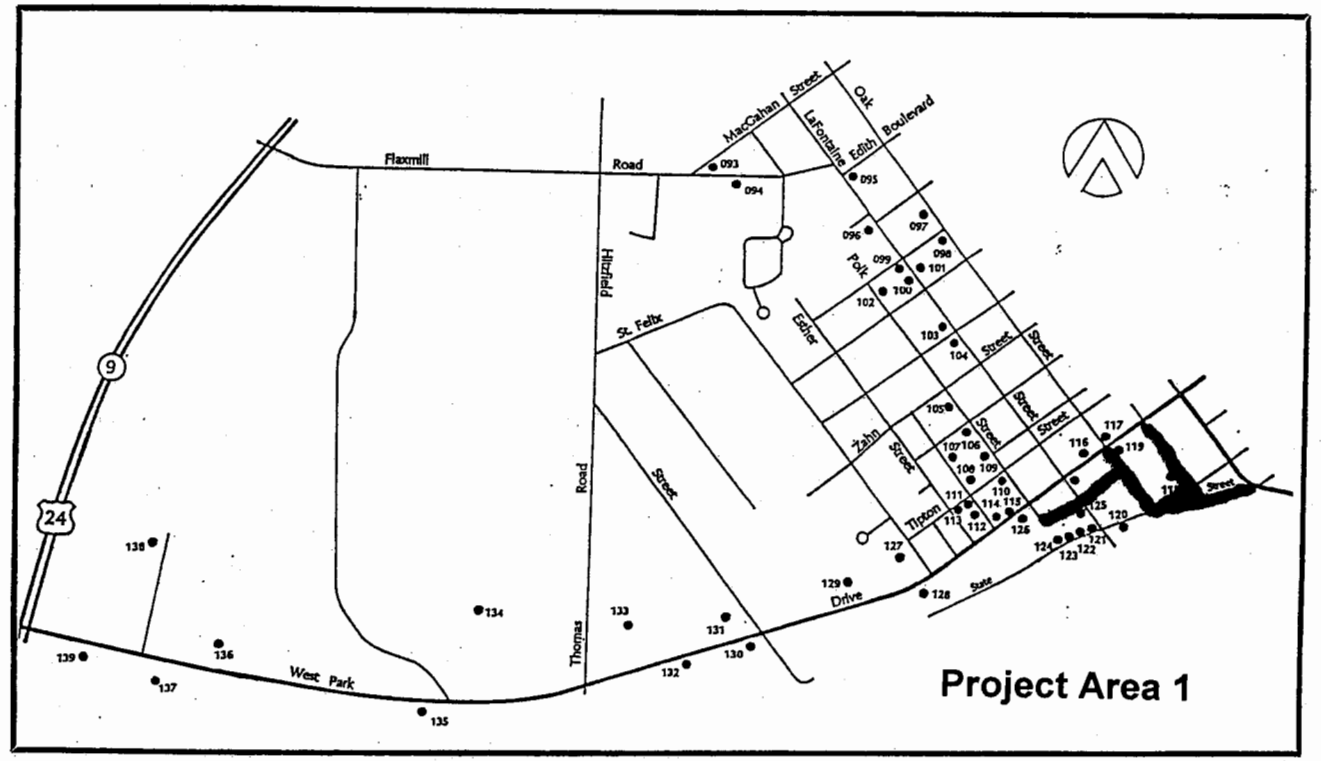
Project Area 3
(2 of 2)
Revised 6/25/08

1" = 200'

10152

Figure 5

HUNTINGTON SCATTERED SITES NO. ③ (28093 - 28139)



081 C MELVIN FARMER HOUSE, 741 First St.; Craftsman Bungalow; c.1920; Architecture (288)

082 C ROBERT V. LAMONT HOUSE, 726 First St.; Craftsman Bungalow; c.1915; Architecture (288)

083 C JOHN C AND ELLEN KELLY HOUSE, 525 Lincoln Ave.; Queen Anne Cottage; c.1905; Architecture (288)

084 C HOUSE, 505-507 E. Washington St.; Italianate; c.1880; Architecture (288)

085 C HOUSE, 559 E. Washington St.; American Four Square; c.1915; Architecture (288)

086 N HOUSE, 669-671 E. Market St.; Queen Anne; c.1890; Architecture, Social History (288)

087 C HOUSE, 746 E. Market St.; Queen Anne; c.1895; Architecture, Social History (288)

088 C HOUSE, 745 E. Market St.; Greek Revival; c.1860; Architecture (288)

089 C HOUSE, 704 E. Franklin St.; Craftsman Bungalow; c.1915; Architecture (288)

090 C HOUSE, 655 E. Franklin St.; Queen Anne; c.1895; Architecture (288)

091 C HOUSE, 618 E. Franklin St.; Vernacular/Gable Front & Wing; c.1890; Vernacular/Construction (288)

092 C HOUSE, 553 E. Franklin St.; Vernacular; c.1915; Vernacular/Construction (288)

093 C HOUSE, 680 Flax Mill Rd.; Tudor Revival; c.1940; Architecture (049)

094 O JOHN R. KISSINGER HOUSE, 625 Flax Mill Rd.; Colonial Revival; c.1900; Health/Medicine, Military (049)

095 C HOUSE, 471 Edith Blvd.; Tudor Revival; c.1940; Architecture (049)

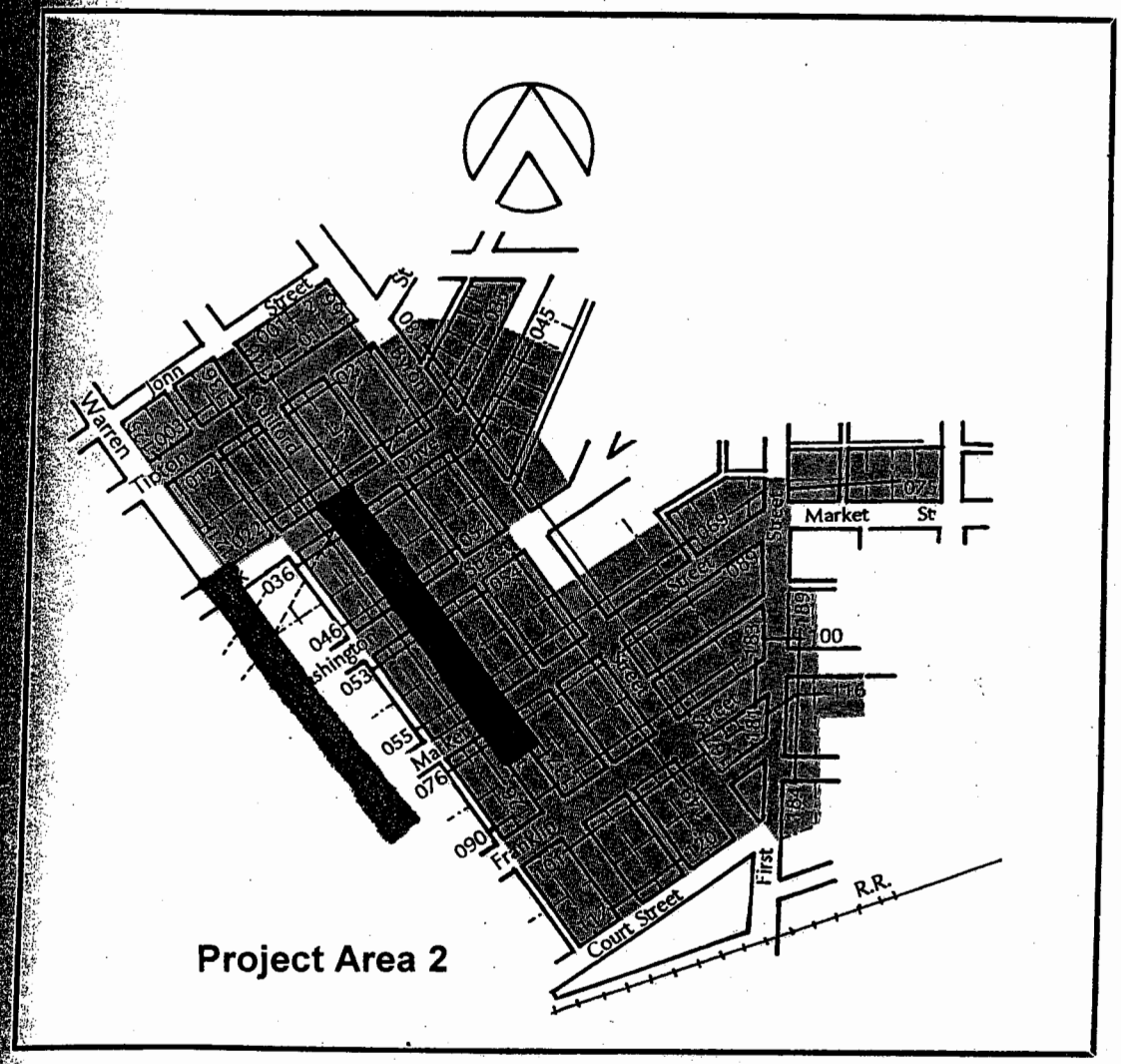
096 N NICOLAS SIMONS HOUSE, 1148 LaFontaine St.; Greek Revival/Colonial Revival; c.1860/c.1915; Architecture, Exploration/Settlement (049)

097 O BECKER HOUSE, 1034 N. Oak St.; Victorian Romanesque; c.1890; Architecture (049)

Project Area 1

Figure 6: from the Huntington County Interim Report 2nd Ed., 1997, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

ORIGINAL PLAT HISTORIC DISTRICT (25001 - 25189)



This district is significant as the eastern section of the original plat of Huntington, surveyed in 1832. As such, it is at the heart of the community and contains many historic structures. Primarily residential, the original plat district has four outstanding church buildings. One is still operated by the original denomination and one is a museum. There is also an outstanding Masonic Lodge building. The district is fortunate to have a neighborhood grocery and funeral home.

EAST JOHN STREET (South Side)

No.	Add.	Description
001	321	**HOUSE;** American Four Square; c.1915 (C)
002	335	**APARTMENT COMPLEX;** Craftsman; c.1920 (C)

EAST TIPTON STREET (North Side)

003	204	**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST;** Neo-Classical; 1919 (O)
004	216-220	**HOUSE;** Colonial Revival; c.1915 (C)
005	234-236	**HOUSE;** Italianate; c.1880 (C)
006	240	**HOUSE;** Italianate; c.1880 (C)
007	306-308	**HOUSE;** Colonial Revival/Craftsman; c.1910 (N)

revised 4/29/08

Figure 7: from the Huntington County Interim Report 2nd Ed., 1997, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

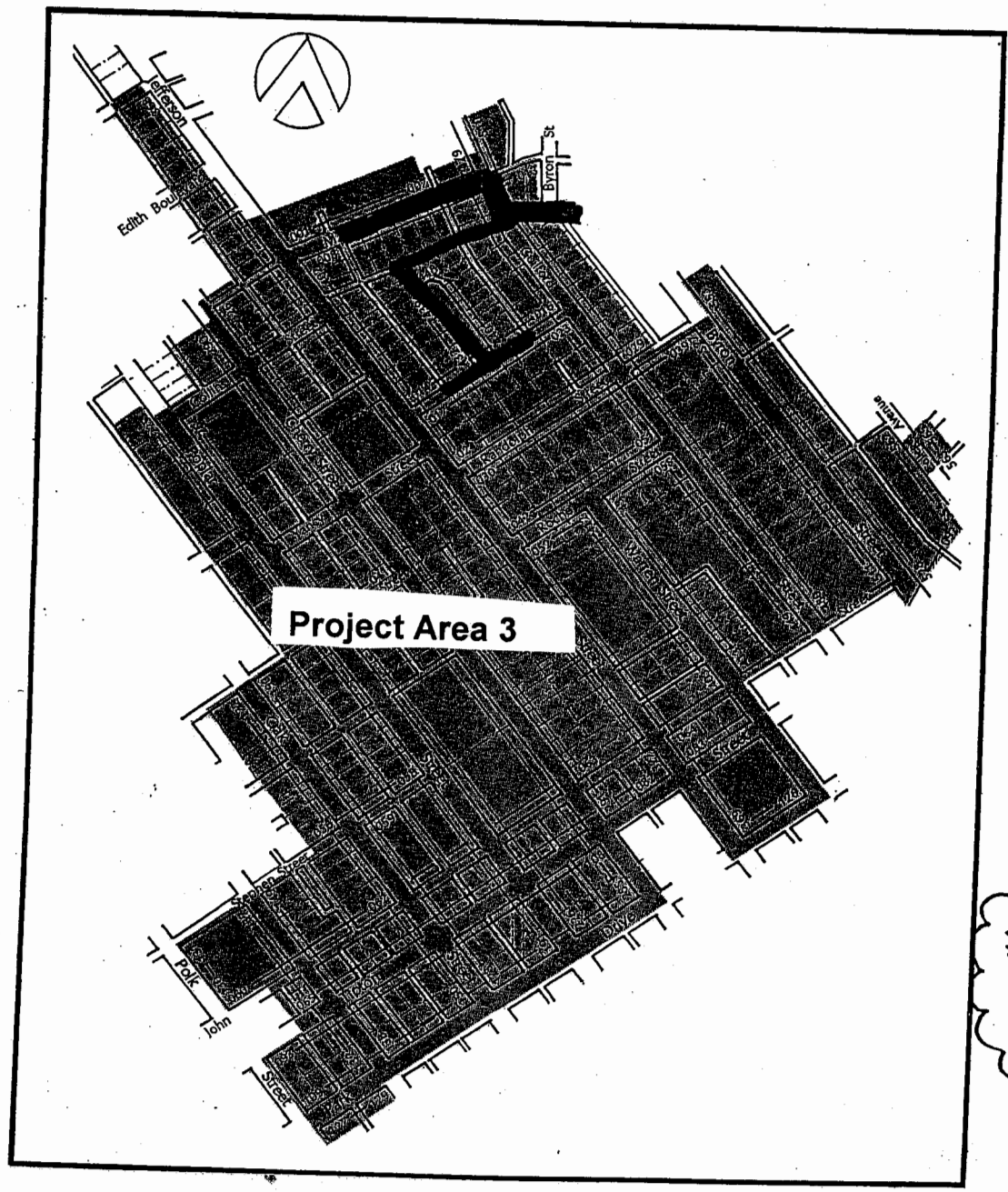
NORTH JEFFERSON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT (22001 - 22565)

The dominant residential and historic district of Huntington, the North Jefferson Street Historic District runs northwest from the downtown commercial area (Huntington Courthouse Square Historic District).

Jefferson Street figured prominently early on the Fort Recovery-Goshen Road by which settlers passed from Ohio going into the northwest territory. A bridged crossing at Little River divided North and South Jefferson Streets; early covered bridges and the buildings on the river were renowned.

The district is nearly equally divided by Jefferson Street. The wealthy and prominent people of Huntington made north Jefferson a desirable address during the Civil War era, through the Victorian and early twentieth century periods. Except for the post World War II era in the newly-built north end the street did not suffer from commercial development or rezoning.

It remains a vital residential area today as young families restore the early homes. Prominent houses include the Jesse Davies House, the Loughbridge-Grayston House, the Ewing, the McGrew and the Dick Houses, as well as the Purviance House (NR) and the Taylor-Zent House (NR). Four outstanding churches and three schools are also in the district.



Area 3

Figure 8: from the Huntington County Interim Report 2nd Ed., 1997, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory